



1300 I Street, N.W., Suite 400 West  
Washington, DC 20005

**Donald C. Brittingham**  
Director – Wireless/Spectrum Policy

November 11, 2005

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Room TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: *Ex Parte* Presentation**  
**WT Docket No. 03-103; “Air-Ground Telecommunications Services”**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On November 11, 2005, representatives of Verizon Airfone met with FCC staff to discuss the Commission’s pending rulemaking on the Air-Ground service. A list of the participants in the meeting is attached.

In this meeting, Verizon Airfone stressed the importance of negotiating new cross-border agreements with Canada and Mexico to enable the delivery of broadband Air-Ground services in the United States. It was noted that failure to negotiate such agreements would preclude the operations of a broadband system within 550 miles of the Canadian and Mexican borders, and as shown in the attached map would effectively preclude the offering of any broadband Air-Ground service in the United States.

FCC staff noted that official negotiations with Canada and Mexico have not yet begun, and will not likely begin until January 2006, at the earliest. Given the time required to negotiate these agreements and the time required for regulators in Canada and Mexico to conclude their own internal reviews associated with such negotiations, we expect that it will take a year or more before effective agreements are in place. Consequently, it is unlikely that effective cross-border agreements will be in place before the first quarter of 2007 at the earliest, six to nine months after the expected conclusion of the Air-

Ground auction and the grant of associated licenses. Airfone noted that no Air-Ground broadband licensee would be able to provide service absent such agreements, and Airfone would not be able to begin the conversion of its existing narrowband system as required by the Commission until these agreements are in place.

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Based on the timeline provided by FCC staff, Airfone will at best have 18 months from the effective date of these agreements to convert its narrowband system to the new spectrum configuration in order to meet the two-year requirement imposed by the Commission. And, it will have a little more than three years left on its current five-year license to effectuate the complete transformation of its business to the new broadband model. Airfone stressed the importance of beginning negotiations with Canada and Mexico as quickly as possible, and offered its support to the FCC in facilitating effective agreements.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's Rules, an electronic copy of this letter is being filed for inclusion in the above-referenced docket. Due to an administrative error, this letter is being filed late.

Sincerely,

/s/ Donald C. Brittingham  
Donald C. Brittingham

#### Attachments

cc:	Richard Arsenault	Charlene Lagerwerff
	James Ballis	Thomas Lucey
	Jennifer Gilsenan	Moslem Sawez
	Jay Jackson	Marcus Wolf

**List of Attendees**

Jennifer Gilsenan, Strategic Analysis and Negotiations Division, International Bureau (IB)

James Ballis, Strategic Analysis and Negotiations Division, IB

Charlene Lagerwerff, Strategic Analysis and Negotiations Division, IB

Thomas Lucey, Strategic Analysis and Negotiations Division, IB

Marcus Wolf, Strategic Analysis and Negotiations Division, IB

Richard Arsenault, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

(WTB) Jay Jackson, Mobility Division, WTB

Moslem Sawez, Mobility Division, WTB

Jacquelynn Ruff, Vice President-International Public Policy & Regulatory Affairs,

Verizon Communications

Leslie Martinkovics, Director-International Public Policy & Regulatory Affairs,

Verizon Communications

Don Brittingham, Director-Wireless/Spectrum Policy, Verizon Communications

Leslie Owsley, Associate General Counsel, Verizon Communications

Robert Combs, Director, Verizon Airfone